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PM-TAFOYA 11-21
PROSECUTORS CHANGE STRATEGY IN LIBYAN SHOOTING TRIAL
BY K.C. MASON
FORT COLLINS, COLO. (UPI) -- PROSECUTORS IN THE ATTEMPTED MURDER AND CONSPIRACY TRIAL OF ALLEGED LIBYAN "HITMAN" EUGENE A. TAFOYA HAVE DROPPED ATTEMPTS TO LINK THE DEFENDANT WITH FUGITIVE FORMER CIA AGENT EDWIN WILSON.

DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY LARRY ABRAHAMSON SAID AT THE CLOSE OF FRIDAY'S COURT SESSION THAT FORMER CIA AGENT KEVIN MULCAHY AND FORMER GREEN BERET LUKE THOMPSON, BOTH WILSON ASSOCIATES, HAVE BEEN RELEASED FROM THEIR SUBPOENAES.

ABRAHAMSON SAID MULCAHY WOULD TESTIFY ONLY IF NEEDED TO REFUTE TAFOYA'S CLAIM THAT HE BELIEVED HE WAS WORKING FOR THE CIA WHEN HE WENT TO FAISAL ZAGALLAI'S APARTMENT ON OCT. 14, 1980, AND SHOT THE LIBYAN GRADUATE STUDENT TWICE IN THE HEAD.

"WE ARE NOT TRYING TO PROSECUTE WILSON," SAID ABRAHAMSON. "WE'RE DEALING WITH WHAT HAPPENED HERE IN FORT COLLINS. THE INTERNATIONAL ASPECT IS SOMETHING THAT HAS PROGRESSED THROUGH THE MEDIA."

THE DEPUTY PROSEUCTOR SAID THE CONSPIRACY CHARGE WAS PROVEN WITH THE TESTIMONY THAT A WOMAN CALLED ZAGALLAI'S APARTMENT THE NIGHT BEFORE HE WAS SHOT TO SET UP A FAKE JOB INTERVIEW WITH TAFOYA.

'ALL WE HAVE TO SHOW IS THAT HE (TAFOYA) CONSPIRED WITH SOMEONE ELSE,' SAID ABRAHAMSON. 'WE DON'T HAVE TO SHOW WHO THAT SOMEONE ELSE WAS.'

FEDERAL INVESTIGATORS PREVIOUSLY SAID THEY BELIEVED WILSON HIRED TAFOYA AND OTHER ALLEGED MERCENARIES TO ASSASSINATE DISSIDENTS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBYAN STRONGMAN MOAMMAR KADAFY.

ZAGALLAI, WHOSE 36TH BIRTHDAY IS SUNDAY, OPENLY CRITICIZED KHADAFY IN HIS FINAL YEARS AS A GRADUATE STUDENT AT COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY. THE SON OF A FORMER MAYOR OF TRIPOLI, ZAGALLAI OBTAINED HIS DOCTORATE DEGREE IN SOCIOLOGY WITHIN MONTHS AFTER THE SHOOTING WHICH LEFT HIM BLIND IN HIS RIGHT EYE.

ABRAHAMSON SAID THE PROSECUTION HOPED TO WIND UP ITS CASE WITH 'FOUR OR FIVE' MORE WITNESSES WHEN THE LARIMER COUNTY DISTRICT COURT TRIAL RESUMES MONDAY.

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